

**CLAIMS:**

- 1           1.       A method of controlling the rates for users over a link between a first  
2       node and a second node within a wireless communications system, said method  
3       comprising the steps of:  
4               setting at least one user to a reduced rate over said link as a function of rates of  
5       a plurality of users.
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1 wherein said step of setting comprising the step  
2       of:  
3               changing the size of a transport format block for said at least one user.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 1 comprising the steps of:  
2               employing a RNC as said first node and a Node B as said second node.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 1 comprising:  
2               calculating a sustainable rate  $R_s$  per user as a function of a number  $N$  of said  
3       users and said rates;  
4               determine said reduced rate  $R_{TFj}$  as a function of said sustainable rate  $R_s$ ;  
5               setting a number  $N_L$  of users to said reduced rate  $R_{TFj}$  where said number  $N_L$  is  
6       at least a function of said sustainable rate  $R_s$ , said number  $N$  of users and said reduced  
7       rate  $R_{TFj}$ .
- 1           5.       The method of claim 1 comprising the step of:  
2               using said second node to establish wireless links with said users located in  
3       geographic proximity to said second node.
- 1           6.       The method of claim 1 comprising the steps of:  
2               employing a RNC as said first node and a Node B as said second node.

1           7.     The method of claim 1 comprising the steps of:  
2           using a plurality of users having a plurality of bearer rates; and  
3           setting said at least one user to a reduced rate within a bearer rate for said user.

1           8.     The method of claim 1 comprising the steps of:  
2           using a plurality of users having a plurality of priority classes; and  
3           setting said at least one user to a reduced rate within a bearer rate and priority  
4    class for said user.

1           9.     The method of claim 1 comprising the steps of:  
2           selecting a size of a transport format block for a user by changing the number  
3    of transport blocks used to form said transport format block as a function of the size  
4    of transport format blocks of at least one other user.